

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH PUBLISHED DAILY AND SUNDAY BY DISPATCH PUBLISHING CO.

TELEPHONES Business Office 175 Editorial Rooms 205

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE.

PAYABLE STRICTLY CASH IN ADVANCE.

Daily and Sunday \$5.00 Daily and Sunday, Six Months \$2.50 Daily and Sunday, Three Months \$1.25

Entered at the Postoffice in Wilmington, N. C., as Second-class Matter.

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1917.

And the baby's name is 1917.

Old but ever sweet—Happy New Year.

Once more the waterwagon is spick-and-span.

Some people are swell only in that they are inflated with conceit.

The distillery comes under the head of bottling wrath, we suppose.

Some combination, the American doll and the American dollar.

Its all right to have bubbling success, but, alas, success is often but a bubble.

The prohis, should get it straight. It is "The Prince of Pilsen;" not the Prince of Pilsner.

To the class in nature faking: When Theodore Roosevelt goes in swimming is he a Teddy bare?

We expect any minute to hear that the Jap who went into the Dismal Swamp was locating a naval base for the Mikado.

In our opinion the trouble with the war is not so much snow on the battlefronts, as too much reign at the seats of government.

Looks like congestion of transportation did more towards making North Carolina have a dry Christmas than did the prohibition law.

Some fellow has discovered a way to photograph the voice, which raises hope that now some people will at least be able to hear themselves as others hear them.

Congressman Henry, of Texas, wired "Frenzied Finance" Lawson to "put up or shut up." Not precisely dignified nor elegant, yet thoroughly Texanese.

When Francisco Villa and General Carranza pass away and they place "At Rest" on their tombstones, the phrase will be more fitting for Mexico than for the dead.

Representative-elect Grant shows that he is going to do something, and a doer is always worth while. Incidentally, it may be added that what Wilmington needs are more doers of things and less doers of people.

Just when folks are having a hard time raising the price for the necessities of life, some one gives forth the news that this country yearly spends \$60,000,000 for chewing gum, which certainly sounds a jawing note.

A man in Washington has been sent to jail for declaring that George Washington drank. This shows how prohibition is advancing. In the old days it was a tribute to say a gentleman sipped a mint julep or drank a long toddy.

New Yorkers are getting to be more classical and aesthetical than the Bostonese. In Gotham the other day a man was arrested for knocking a woman down and he explained to the court that he merely "pushed her gently in the face."

Another attractive feature about the bonuses granted by different corporations to their employes was the fact that it placed more money in circulation. In addition to giving these employes and their loved ones an extra big Christmas, unexpected additional pleasure, it imparted the plus to other people, as the money was spent with the merchants, thus increasing their business, and flowed from them into various channels. So it was a good thing all 'round, as well as a fine thing.

THE COMMISSION FORM.

The mass meeting of last Saturday night again accomplished something in that it launched a number of matters for discussion, if nothing else was done. After various questions had been discussed and many ideas advanced the meeting finally adopted resolutions approving a commission form of government for Wilmington.

So expression by the mass meeting in favor of a commission form of government is not surprising. It may not bear fruit at this time, but it draws the city nearer the goal, which is something worth while at least. The commission form is the one mode of government that has measured up nearest the needs of the times so far, and, we reiterate, it is opposed only by two classes, viz: Those who are not familiar with it, being wedded to custom and not having taken the time to investigate, while listening, perhaps, to critics who have axes to grind, and politicians who would be shorn of their power should the commission form of government be adopted.

These politicians are shrewd and insidious. They have various ways of slyly sowing the seed of discontent, without discussing the merits of the system, often assailing it without naming a single concrete instance of failure, so they may be judged. The truth of the matter is that out of the many cities—progressive, prosperous cities—that have the modern form to apply in this modern day, not one has recorded failure and all have recorded progress, so far as we have been able to see. This evidence comes from close at home, too. Greensboro and Raleigh are well satisfied with it; Asheville is so immensely pleased that the people of that city desire to extend the form to the county of Buncombe, while in Columbia the form was recently endorsed at the polls by a larger vote than when the plan was adopted.

Our faith in this form of government is not recent, but of years standing, as Dispatch readers know. During that time we have watched its application, heeded its achievements, and our faith has grown stronger. The commission form is not untried. It has been tested and found true, whereas every form that Wilmington has placed in operation was new and simply an experiment. Therein has been one of the dangers, though it has always appeared foolish to us to argue that the city has not advanced by reason of the changes that have been made. The changes have been for the better, in spirit and in operation, in our opinion, and the city has progressed under the new. But just as changes in the past—changes to something experimental—proved, so would a change to the commission form of government (not an experiment) benefit the city.

This has been the history in other places and these other cities have expanded. It is not merely a matter of spending money and making improvements, but making improvements that will allow a town to expand and have a form of government and an administration of affairs that will appeal to people outside, as every city must bring in outsiders, to reside and invest, in order to grow. It is dangerous to have it otherwise. To the contrary is just the same as a man living on his principal. He makes a show, perhaps gets credit for being a shrewd business man and an individual possessed of money, but failure in the end is inevitable.

The silliest argument advanced against the commission form of government is that it is un-democratic; that it means the rule of the few. As a rule such argument is simply indulged in to stir prejudice and to place the question beyond the pale of reason into the quagmire of blindness. If there is one virtue the commission form of government possesses it is its democracy. It means rule of the majority, and it possesses the initiative referendum and recall. How anyone can contend that it is un-democratic, that it means the rule of the few when it requires a majority of all the people to elect, is difficult to understand. It is the most democratic of all forms. The old form of government in Wilmington was anything but democratic and the present form allows chance for a minority to rule, which is un-democratic, but the commission form absolutely prevents any but a majority from ruling.

To those of open minds, the thing that should appeal stronger to is that that absolutely no argument has ever been advanced against the commission form; that those who oppose it cannot cite the concrete evidence of its failure; that the only excuse ever offered against it is insinuation that it is un-democratic, when they would have to admit, when cornered, that it is the very essence of democracy, in that it provides absolutely for major-

ity rule. Wilmington sooner or later will come to this or similar form of government. Last year it had many more supporters than the year before; today it has many more than twelve months ago. All because more people are studying the question and when they do they are bound to give their approval. So the ranks of the converts will increase, until Wilmington, at some sweet day, will have the commission form, to give the best and the most direct administration of affairs.

STATING TERMS.

William Jennings Bryan lauds President Wilson's move for peace, laying especial emphasis upon that portion which calls for the belligerent nations to state their aims and terms, Mr. Bryan contending that it will or should bring a definition of terms, by which the world can judge the temper and the merits of the different countries involved in the great conflict.

If the President's note can accomplish that undoubtedly it will prove of great benefit, but that is just what the belligerent nations are shying at just now. Hence, the report of confidential exchanges. This would deprive the world of chance to see and to judge.

If one side or the other would define its terms for peace the world could pass judgment, and assess the moral blame for a continuation of the war. If the demands of the Teutons were excessive and out of keeping with present conquests and ability to hold what has so far been gained, the world would know it. On the other hand, if the entente was simply set in crushing the German empire the world would become cognizance of it. This is the diplomatic point, the one carrying political significance, that is being combatted at present. Germany shrewdly understands and so does the entente. So each shifts the burden to the shoulders of the other.

A confidential exchange could reach the same end, and its inauguration would really get a peace movement in a tangible form, though it would be a much slower process, by reason of public opinion, which though not fired from cannon nor launched from torpedo-tubes is a mighty weapon in determining any cause.

Thomas W. Lawson has consented, so he wires, to appear before the congressional committee and tell all he knows about the alleged "inside information" on President Wilson's peace note, which, he claims, allowed manipulators on the stock exchange, to reap a harvest. This is well. Whether he can prove anything or not, it will go towards exoneration or proving guilt. Either way it will have a beneficial effect. If there has been "inside information" it will allow punishment of those responsible and a tightening of bands in the future. If the charges are untrue it will be a lesson to the public not to grow excited and believe others guilty every-time some fellow bellows charges.

This is a good time to stand upon the rocks of your failure, just as "Monte Cristo" stood upon the rock in the water, and shout: "The world is mine!" That's the spirit that counts and you couldn't have less than did old "Monte" when he yelled his optimism and determination.

To Deport Undesirables. Wellington, N. Z., Jan. 1.—To prevent sedition the Government has passed war regulations providing for the deportation of undesirables.

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Advertisement for N.B.C. Graham Crackers, featuring an image of the product box and text: 'Children love N.B.C. GRAHAM CRACKERS because they taste so good—slightly sweetened to satisfy youngsters' palates. Crown-ups like them because they not only taste good but are nourishing as well. Sold by grocers everywhere.'

THE NEW PLAN.

President Jacobi in Letter to Membership, Very Much Encouraged.

From the Commercial Bulletin, issued by the Chamber of Commerce: "This issue of the Bulletin marks the first six months under the new plan of membership. This period has been given over to constructive work in the interest of the organization and the community. The people are responsive to the needs of Wilmington and are co-operating effectively for the development of the city and its surroundings, with no lack of appreciation for our present community enterprise. This interest is manifested by the Chamber of Commerce is a positive manner and convinces me of the success of the individual plan, which has awakened and encouraged a new spirit of progress."

"The Chamber can perform no greater service than to exercise its influence to make this city a place of peace, plenty and contentment and in extending its aid and help in the promotion of all manner of public enterprise I feel that this is the ultimate aim."

"The policy of the Executive Committee to have all propositions first investigated by the standing committees which are chosen to direct a specific work, before they are presented to the Chamber proper, has been especially beneficial to the work of the organization and resulted in greater interest from the members. I want to urge all members to avail themselves of the privileges of the Chamber; to attend the regular meetings and to feel at liberty to present their ideas on all public matters."

"The members have made the first six months of the new organization a success and among the distinct accomplishments has been the creation of a closer community spirit. The officers are striving to promote a continuation of the "pull-together" idea and I want to extend a welcome to all citizens who are not identified

DIED SUNDAY NIGHT.

Remains of Mrs. T. J. Southerland Will Reach City Tomorrow.

Mrs. Graham Farmer received telegraphic communication this morning conveying the news of the death of a relative, Mrs. Tom J. Southerland, widow of the late Tom J. Southerland, for many years one of the leading business men of this city, which occurred at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Bradley J. Saunders, in Birmingham, Ala., last night, following an illness that had extended over a long period of time. The deceased had attained a ripe old age and the attendant infirmities were assigned as the cause of death. The remains will arrive in the city early tomorrow afternoon on the Seaboard train and while complete funeral arrangements had not been made this morning the services will probably be conducted from the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Farmer, No. 507 Chestnut street. Interment will be made in Oakdale cemetery. Messrs. Lonnie Leon and Julian, sons of the deceased, and Mrs. Bradley J. Saunders, a daughter, will accompany the remains here.

The deceased was a resident of this city for a number of years and was known to a wide circle of friends. Her husband died while residing in Wilmington a number of years ago, but she continued her residence here for several years thereafter.

WILL ISSUE BULLETIN

Successful Meeting Closed at Shiloh Church Yesterday.

One of the most interesting Union meetings in the history of the Wilmington Baptist Association was closed at Shiloh church, near Atkinson, yesterday afternoon with the re-election of Mr. G. E. Leftwich as moderator and Rev. A. L. Goodrich as clerk. Dr. John Jeter Hurt, pastor of the First Baptist church of this city, preached an able and inspiring sermon Saturday morning while in the afternoon interesting addresses were made by Rev. J. A. Sullivan, pastor of Calvary Baptist church, Mr. Odie B. Hinnant, city boys' work secretary, C. C. Cashwell, Esq., and Mr. L. W. Moore. The morning service yesterday was delivered by Rev. W. B. Rivenbark, and the Sunday School hour was taken up principally with a discussion by Rev. J. D. Moore, secretary of the Young People's Work of the State B. Y. P. U. Talks were made during the afternoon by Rev. G. E. Leftwich and Rev. A. L. Goodrich. Mr. Carey Herring, a student at Wake Forest college, sang a number of splendid solos. A decision to issue an association bulletin immediately after each quarterly meeting was arrived at and the first number of this publication will appear shortly. The next meeting will be held at Moore's Creek, April 28-29. Local delegates returning to the city last night were very much pleased with the meeting and declared many things were accomplished at the Shiloh conference. An especially enjoyable feature was the picnic dinners served at the church on both days of the meeting.

Atlantic Coast Line The Standard Railroad of the South EXCURSION FARES \$38.10 New Orleans, La. Account Annual Meeting Western Fruit Jobbers Association. Tickets will be sold Jan. 27 and 28, limited Feb. 5.

\$22.45 Tampa, Fla. Account Gasparilla Carnival. Tickets will be sold Jan. 31 to Feb. 5, limited returning until Feb. 20. Limit may be extended to March 3rd upon payment of \$1.00 and depositing with joint agent etc.

\$13.95 Atlanta, Ga. Account Southeastern Land Show and the National Association of Builders Exchange of the U. S. Tickets will be sold Jan. 31 and Feb. 3, 10, 11 and 14, limited returning until Feb. 20, but may be extended to March 6th by depositing and paying \$1.00.

\$23.45 Pensacola, Fla. \$24.55 Mobile, Ala. \$28.75 New Orleans, La. Account Mardi Gras Celebration. Tickets will be sold Feb. 12 to 19, inclusive, limited returning until March 2nd, but may be extended until March 19th by depositing and paying \$1.00.

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Table with columns: DEPARTURE, TO AND FROM, ARRIVALS. Lists train schedules for various destinations like Goldsboro, Jacksonville, and Fayetteville.

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